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## RARE WARBLER OBSERVED

While watching the seafowl at Point Reyes on June 10th Miss Fay Chalmers called to our attention a small bird flitting about in the sparse growth at the base of the walk to the lighthouse. As the bird was partly hidden and obviously of small size, we were at first inclined to attach little importance to it, but a few moments later it appeared in full view, and for the next ten minutes kept close by, constantly changing its position and often partly spreading the tail feathers. The bird was an immature male American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*). Only four previous records for the San Francisco Bay region are listed. (The Distribution of the Birds of California, Grinnell and Miller, 1944.) One of those four records is from the Southeast Farallon Island.

The bird, while in a plumage closely resembling that of the adult female, had more bright orange patches on the sides of the breast near where the forepart of the wing joins the body, and on the front of the breast were dusky patches signifying the beginning of the adult male plumage in which the whole head, breast and back become solid black.

Most of the records for California show this species to occur chiefly in fall and late spring to which pattern this bird conformed.

HARRY C. ADAMSON

## May — TILDEN PARK — Trip

Fifteen birders gathered at Jewell Lake in Tilden Park on May 19 in spite of a heavy fog which lasted until after noon. Sight identification was a bit difficult in the gloom but many birds were singing. Outstanding were two male western tanagers; several lazuli buntings, orioles and cowbirds, along with hundreds of cedar waxwings and numerous Allen and Anna hummingbirds. A pair of red-tailed hawks were seen and heard near a large nest in a eucalyptus tree. Forty-three species were identified, as follows: Ruddy duck; red-tl. and sparrow hawk; Cal. quail; coot; m. dove; Allen and Anna hummingbird; red-sh. flicker; downy and hairy woodpecker; bk. phoebe; west. and olive-s. flycatcher; Steller and scrub jay; pl. titmouse; bush-tit; wren-tit; house and Bewick wren; robin; olive-b. (russet.) thrush; cedar waxwing; warb. vireo; or-cr. and pileol. warbler; redwing; Bullock oriole; cowbird; west. tanager; bl-hd. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; purple and house finch; pine siskin; common and green-bk. gold finch; sp. and br. towhee; Oregon junco; wh-cr. and song sparrow.

A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

## May — LOS BANOS — Trip

On Sunday, May 27, 1951, Dr. T. Eric Reynolds led a field trip to the Los Banos Game Refuge, with 22 members and guests attending. The warm day and rather high wind made birding difficult. After a rapid, mid-morning round of the Refuge, which soon proved to be fairly unproductive in bird observations, the party proceeded, slowly, to the heron rookery in the vicinity (about 8 miles away). One of the high-lights on the road to the rookery was a flock of at least 100 white pelicans, which flew over the road in formation at a height of about 50 feet. At the rookery the herons were nesting in a eucalyptus grove and, besides adults, several young were seen in the nests.

The most significant feature of the trip was the marked change in the countryside due to the diversion of water for agricultural purposes. What was in previous years a series of shallow, fresh-water ponds is now all dry mud flats and weed patches. Formerly, the ponds were the nesting sites for many species, including Black-necked Stilts, Avocets, Black Terns, Cinnamon Teal, Gadwalls, and Mallards. Even the Tricolored Red-wing and Yellow-headed Blackbirds were missing from the Refuge proper.

This year only about 66 species of birds were seen: West. grebe; white pelican; gt. bl. heron; Amer. and snowy egret; Anthony green and bk.-cr. night heron; white-fronted and snow goose; mallard, gadwall, baldpate, cinnamon teal, shoveller, ruddy duck; turkey vulture; red-tl., swainson, marsh and sparrow hawk; ringnecked pheasant; Florida gallinule; coot; killdeer; avocet; black-necked stilt; black tern; mourning dove; barn and burrowing owl; red-sh. flicker; downy and Nuttall woodpecker; west. kingbird; ash-th. flycatcher; black phoebe; west. wood pewee; horned lark; tree, rough-winged, barn and cliff swallow; yellow-billed magpie; crow; Bewick and marsh wren; robin; russet-bk. thrush; west. bluebird; northwestern and Calif. shrike; yellow warbler, yellow-throat, pileo. warbler; house sparrow; west. meadowlark; yellow-hd., red-wing and tricolored red-wing, blackbird; Bullock oriole; Brewer blackbird; cowbird; house finch; Amer. and gr.-bd. goldfinch and song sparrow.

HELEN GILLIAM, *Historian*

## June — TENNESSEE COVE — Trip

Twenty-eight members, who demonstrated that they are not easily discouraged by poor weather, enjoyed Sunday, June 9th, in the vicinity of Tennessee Cove, Marin County.

The main objective, Tennessee Cove, had to be abandoned, due to the presence of Martin's very dangerous bull in the pasture between the Martin Ranch and the Cove. After a careful approach, and a study of the critter through binoculars, it was unanimously decided that discretion was the better part of valor, and we withdrew to a likely looking place off the road, about a quarter of a mile below the Martin ranch house. This little valley, with a wooded stream running through it, proved a very happy choice. Not only were there many birds, but this particular spot offered the protection of surrounding hills, and was pleasantly warm and comfortable. Finding Tennessee Cove strategically untenable, we probably missed nesting Cormorants, and possibly Shearwaters, but were recompensed by interesting close-ups of Warblers, Vireos, etc.

The following 55 species were observed: Double-er. cormorant; gt.-bl. heron; Amer. egret; ruddy duck; t. vulture; red-td., and sparrow hawk; Calif. quail; killdeer; west. gull; band-td. pigeon; Anna and Allen hummingbird; red-sh. flicker; downy woodpecker; bk. phoebe; west. flycatcher; west. wood pewee; olive-s. flycatcher; barn and cliff swallow; Steller and scrub jay; Amer. raven; ch-bk. chickadee; pl. titmouse; bush-tit; wren-tit; Bewick wren; robin; russet-bk. thrush; Hutton and warbl. vireo; lutes., yellow, Tolmie, and pileo. warbler; house sparrow; west. meadowlark; red-wg. and Brewer blackbird; cowbird; bl.-hd. grosbeak; lazuli bunting; house finch; pine siskin; Amer. and gr.-bk. goldfinch; sp. and br. towhee; savannah and lark sparrow; Ore. junco; wh-cr. and song sparrow.

CARL L. CARSON, *Leader and Historian*

## June — CALAVERAS BIG TREES — Trip

Sixteen from the Bay area met at the Calaveras Big Trees State Park on June 16 - 17. Five of us camped out, others commuted from Murphys. The weather was warm and clear. Many flowers were in bloom and the big trees were awe-inspiring as usual.

On Saturday the hike was over the nature trail and then back through the big trees. The feature of this walk was a male evening grosbeak which was seen at close range. The nest of a creeper was found on the trunk of a big tree.

On Sunday we hiked again through the big trees, where singing birds were heard almost continuously but seldom seen. A group of five chestnut-backed chickadees was discovered, which are not known to nest in the Sierra. They were seen by nine of us in good light at close range. None had any trace of the white eye stripe characteristic of the mountain chickadee; they had a chestnut wash on the flanks and the chestnut back was seen clearly on several birds. Later we drove east about 12 miles and had lunch at a beautiful mountain meadow at about 6500 ft. New birds for the trip seen here included: red-tailed hawk, Cassin purple finch, green-tailed towhee and fox sparrow. Nests of the mountain chickadee and white-headed woodpecker were found here.

The following 27 species were found in the park: sparrow hawk; red-sh. flicker; red-br. sapsucker; hairy and wh.-hd. woodpecker; Hammond (?) flycatcher; w. wood pewee; olive-s. flycatcher; Steller jay; mountain and ch.-bk. chickadee; red-br. nuthatch; creeper; robin; hermit thrush; golden-cr. kinglet; solitary and warb. vireo; Audubon and hermit warbler; cowbird; w. tanager; bk.-hd. and evening grosbeak; lark and chipping sparrow and Oregon junco.

The leader drove up to Alpine Lake Saturday morning and saw a pair of spotted sandpipers, calliope hummingbird, pileated woodpecker, Williamson sapsucker, and Traill flycatcher. Birds seen between Stockton and the park included green heron, Fla. gallinule, black-necked stilt, black tern, mountain quail, western kingbird, horned lark and mockingbird.

A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian*

### OBERVATIONS. Edited by Mrs. Junea W. Kelly.

European widgeon, April 22, Palace of Fine Arts, S. F.. E. A. Mayers; 2 Black terns, May 5, Bay Farm Island Bridge, Florence Plymell; Hudsonian curlew, Knot, May 10, Albany, 3 Hooded Orioles, May 23-26, El Cerrito, Hermit Warbler, Pileated woodpecker, May 30, Lokoya Lodge, A. Laurence Curl; Purple Martins, May 31, top of south bluff, Bolinas, Carlyle Sather; Western and Ash-throated flycatcher, May 5, Oakland, Mrs. A. R. Anderson; Tolmie warbler, May 4, Tilden Park Nature Area, White-throated swift, May 11, Strawberry Canyon, Jean E. Matheson.

**NEW MEMBERS.** We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Dr. George Bates, Mr. Bohn C. Lindemann; from Berkeley, Mr. Chester S. Chard, Dr. Robert K. Cutter, (Life member), Miss Muriel Drury, Mrs. J. C. Freihofer, Mrs. Philip N. McCombs, Dr. and Mrs. James F. Mitchell, Miss Frances T. Thayer, Clifford Thompson, George W. Treichel Jr.; from Oroville, Miss Elizabeth Everett.

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## BRIGHTON C. CAIN

A member since 1928, President 1931 and 1932. Mr. Cain was a valued, esteemed, and inspiring leader in all the activities of the Society, graciously sharing his fund of knowledge, experiences and personal integrity thru programs, field trips and social contacts especially among the younger groups. The Society is richer because of his influence, and poorer because of his loss.

Died May 19, 1951.

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## JULY MEETING

The 406th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held July 12th, following a six o'clock picnic supper at the Fireplace in Codornices Park, Berkeley, on Euclid Avenue opposite the Rose Garden. Bus #7. Bring your supper and "fagots for the fire"! The more wood we have the better the campfire. If you have been traveling come and share your bird observations on our program, "BIRDING FAR AFIELD". Make this a jolly home talent evening!

## AUDUBON "INFORMATION PLEASE" — SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 13th, the Golden Gate Audubon Society will meet at the home of Dr. and Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds, in Piedmont. After supper, there will be an "Information Please" program, the success of which will depend upon your response to this notice! Think of some difficult questions on California birds, and send them to the program chairman by August meeting. Prizes will be given for those that cannot be answered by the panel of experts.

MRS. FRANK A. SCOTT, *Program Chairman*

## July — TAYLOR PARK — Trip

On July 14 and 15 to Samuel P. Taylor State Park in Marin Co. Come and explore this 2300 acre park on Lagunitas Creek, with a variety of habitats. Such unusual nesting birds for the Bay area as hermit thrush, winter wren, pygmy nuthatch and band-tailed pigeon may be found. This trip is planned especially but not exclusively for the younger group. From San Francisco take 7:35 bus (Sunday only) and get off at the entrance to the park, 10 miles beyond Fairfax. Hikes at 9:30 on Saturday and 9:00 on Sunday. Leaders, Harry Adamson, TH. 3-9578, and Larry Curl, LA. 6-7004. Bring camping equipment, food for 4 meals, binoculars, swimming suit, etc.

## July — U.C. CAMPUS — Trip

On Saturday, July 28, to the University of California Campus and Strawberry Canyon. Meet at west entrance to the campus, head of University Ave. at 8:30. From San Francisco take 7:47 "F" train to University Ave., and walk east one block to the campus. Birding first on the lower campus and later at the Botanical Garden. Leader, Arthur Myer. Bring binoculars, lunch if desired, and interested friends.

A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian*

WESTERN BIRD SLIDES. Reproductions of Roger T. Peterson's and Allan Brook's paintings in slide form (2" x 2") are now available at 50 cents each, from National Audubon Society.

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## Golden Gate Audubon Society

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### For the Study and the Protection of Birds Branch of National Audubon Society

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